Debarring Higher Income Groups from PDS

500. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that out of 75 lakh tonnes of foodgrains supplied through PDS, only 35 lakh tonnes go to people below poverty line;

(b) whether Government purpose to debar people in higher income groups, such as those paying income tax, from getting the benefit of Public Distribution System; if so, the details of the proposal; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV): (a) No, Sir. Under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) introduced in June, 1997, out of the total annual allotment of foodgrains of 175 lakh tonnes, 72 lakh tonnes is earmarked for issue at specially subsidised prices to the people below poverty line (BPL) @ 10 kg. per family per month and 103 lakh tonnes is issued at Central Issue Prices (CIP) applicable to families above poverty line (APL). Additional, allocations of foodgrains to the States/UTs. At CIPs for APL families are also being made.

The off-take reported during 1998-99 (upto January, 1999) against BPL and APL quota including additional allocation was 49.14 and 105.67 lakh tonnes respectively.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The proposal to bar the access to the Public Distribution System (PDS) for the affluent sections of the society was discussed in the Conference of Chief Ministers on Basic, Minimum Services held during 4-5 July, 1996. The Conference, however, felt that as a large section of the population, who may be above the poverty line are also getting the benefit of PDS, suitable measures should be taken to ensure availability of essential commodities at reasonable prices to this section.

In the Conference of Chief Ministers and State Food Ministers held on 30.09.1997 to review implementation of TPDS, the general concensus was that there should be no reduction in allocation to the APL families.

It has not been possible to exclude people in the higher income groups from access to PDS because of the lack of consensus on this issue.

Financial assistance to Kerala for purchase of vans

501. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kerala Government has sought financial assistance of Rs. 128.28 lakhs for purchase of 24 vans under the centrally sponsored schemes for the areas not covered under Revamped Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's decision thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) The State Government of Kerala sought financial assistance of Rs. 128.28 lakhs for purchase of 24 vehicles under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of "Purchase of Vans/Trucks". The financial assistance is provided under the scheme for purchase of vans/trucks for use as mobile fair price shops (FPS) and for delivering PDS commodities at the doorstep of FPSs. From 1998-99 the scope of the scheme has been enlarged to include those areas also which were not covered under the erstwhile Revamped Public Distribution System (RPDS). The State Government requested for financial assistance under the extended scope of the scheme.

The proposal has been approved and orders issued on 19th February, 1999 for

release of Rs. 128.28 lakhs to the Government of Kerala. Fifty per cent of the assistance is in the form of loan and fifty per cent as Grant-in-aid as per the guidelines of the scheme.

खाद्यान्नों पर राज-सहायता

502. श्री राज मोहिन्दर सिंह:
श्री कपिल सिब्बल:

क्या खाद्य और उपभोक्ता मामले मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि आम उपभोक्ताओं को राहत प्रदान करने के लिए खाद्यान्नों पर राज-सहायता प्रदान की जाती है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो वर्ष 1996-97, 1997-98 और 1998-99 के दौरान इस संबंध में राज-सहायता के रूप में प्रदान की गई धनराशि का क्या अनुमान है;

(ग) उक्त अवधि के दौरान सरकार द्वारा खाद्यान्न उत्पादकों से गेहूं व धान किस-किस मूल्य पर खरीदे गए थे; और

(घ) उपरोक्त वर्षों के दौरान भारतीय खाद्य निगम की गेहूं और चावल की इकोनोमिक कॉस्ट कितनी रही?

खाद्य और उपभोक्ता मामलों के मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सत्यपाल सिंह यादव): (क) जी, हां।

(ख) 1996-97, 1997-98 के दौरान और चालू वर्ष में आज तक भारतीय खाद्य निगम को खाद्य सब्सिडि के प्रति क्रमशः 5166 करोड़ रुपये, 7500 करोड़ रुपये और 7959 करोड़ रुपये अदा किए गए है।

(ग) और (घ) वर्ष 1996-97 से 1998-99 के दौरान गेहूं और चावल की वसूली लागत और भारतीय खाद्य निगम द्वारा वहन की गई गेहूं और चावल की इकनामिक लागत निम्नानुसार थी:—

(रुपये क्विंटल)

पद	1996-97 (अनंतिम/वास्तविक)		1997-98 (संशोधित अनुमान)		1998-99 (बजट अनुमान)	
	न्यूनतम समर्थन मूल्य	इकनामिक लागत	न्यूनतम समर्थन मूल्य	इकनामिक लागत	न्यूनतम समर्थन मूल्य	इकनामिक लागत
गेहूं धान/चावल	380	640.16	475*	800.50	510**	807.95
(i) साधारण	380		415		440	
(ii) बढ़िया	395	847.69	—	940.40	—	980.36
(iii) उत्तम	415		—		—	
(iv) ग्रेड "ए"	—		445		470	

नोट: 1. 1997-98 और इसके बाद से बढ़िया और उत्तम श्रेणियों को ग्रेड "ए" में परिवर्तित कर दिया गया था।
2. जब न्यूनतम समर्थन मूल्य धान के लिए हो तो चावल के लिए इकनामिक लागत भारित लागत है।
*इसमें 60 रुपये का बोनस शामिल है।
**इसमें 55 रुपये का बोनस शामिल है।

Kerala Government's request for release of Rs. 1.50 lakhs for purchase of computer

503. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Government of Kerala has requested for release of Rs. 1.50 lakhs for the purchase of a computer and its accessories to be installed at the Commissionarate of Civil Supplies in Kerala under centrally sponsored scheme; and

(b) if so, the details and decision thereon?